

Four March Issues from Denmark

This March Post Danmark released four different sets that demonstrate the enduring appeal of Denmark's philatelic history and new issues program.

One of three March 15 issues also exemplifies the appeal of Danish design, which is famed way beyond Denmark's shores. Many of the pieces of furniture designed during the golden age of furniture design—from 1930 to 1970—are now much sought-after objects. In recent years in particular, there has been a growing interest in Danish design, greatly supported by the retro trend which has made post-war furniture and furnishing accessories highly respected and valued items.

The two stamps celebrate the centenary of the births of the furniture designers Hans J. Wegner and Børge Mogensen. The motifs show Wegner's three-legged Shell Chair from 1963 and Mogensen's Spanish Chair from 1958.

The permanent collection at Danmarks Designmuseum in Copenhagen (formerly the Danish Museum of art and Design) includes both the PH grand piano and the two chairs.

Also on March 15 Post Danmark issued two stamps to mark the 150th anniversary of the war in 1864, which resulted in a loss of land that had always been considered intrinsically Danish and whose loss was a traumatic experience for the Danish nation that came to have a powerful bearing on the Danish psyche for decades.

In the Battle of Dybbøl, on April 18, 1864, 20,000 Prussian soldiers stormed the Danish defenses at Sønderborg, and three months later the country had lost almost half of its territory with the population of the Kingdom of Denmark being reduced by a million.

The immediate reason for the war was that Denmark, in November 1863, adopted a constitution for Denmark and Schleswig, but not Holstein. This conflicted with the peace protocol that was signed following the Three Years' War, according to which the three areas should remain together.



A Prussian corps laid siege to Dybbøl, as shown on the DKK 18 stamp, where Prussian soldiers are depicted hauling a heavy cannon on Broager land. The motif is based on a drawing by the Prussian officer Ulrich von Salpius, who in all likelihood fought in the battle.

The Danish population blindly believed that the Danish forces could halt an invading army at the large Dybbøl fort. The reality was quite different, because after a month of intensive bombardment and four hours of fierce fighting, the Danish troops were forced to retreat. One of the soldiers who fell that day was the Danish General du Plat, who features on the DKK 9 stamp with the shattered Dybbøl Mill in the background. General du Plat showed tremendous courage before he was killed by a bullet during the assault on the Dybbøl fort. The motif is based on a portrait by August Jerndorff, who at the end of the

19th century painted several prominent officers from the Three Years' War and the war in 1864.

The theme of the 2014 Europa theme is Musical Instruments, and Denmark's March 15 Europa stamp shows the PH grand piano, which Poul Henningsen designed back in 1931. Musical Instruments

Today, the PH grand piano has long been recognized as a world-class example of Danish design, and a few years ago production was resumed. The stamp's motif is based on Poul Henningsen's own grand piano, which today is on display at Designmuseum Danmark in Copenhagen. The notes in the background are the introductory bars from a Danish revue song for which Henningsen wrote the lyrics in 1941.

When Poul Henningsen presented his piano at the "Your Home" exhibition in Forum in Copenhagen, it captured the attention of the visiting public. Standing among the traditional black-lacquer grand pianos, his new piece of furniture stood out with its chromium-plated steel legs, transparent lid made of crystal-clear celluloid and, in particular, the red goatskin around the body of the instrument. Thanks to its ground-breaking design, the grand piano stepped out of its traditionally heavy packaging and into a new era, where metallic shiny steel furniture represented the epitome of modernity. A few years ago, the PH grand piano was put back into production.



One other March new issue was released on the 17th. This one is the third and final installment in the pan-Nordic series "Nordic Coastlines". The theme for this year's stamps is "Ships", and the two stamps show a dinghy and a sailing yacht ploughing through the waves.

The photographer Steen Larsen has photographed all the motifs for the Danish stamps in the series. The first stamps were issued back in 2010 with motifs of the Port of Aarhus and Lindøværftet (Odense Steel Shipyard), which were followed in 2012 by two stamps showing scenes from a dramatic rescue at sea. This time, Steen Larsen has been sailing in the Sound with members of the Royal Danish Yacht Club to find motifs for the two stamps.

The DKK 6.50 stamp shows the Laser Radial dinghy, which is the world's most popular dinghy type and was originally designed by the American Bruce Kirby in 1970, since when more than 200,000 have been produced. The idea of the dinghy was that it should be simple enough to be sailed single-handedly.

The Hanse 430e, which is featured on the DKK 14.00 stamp, is a modern yacht with superb sailing properties. For ordinary cruising it can be sailed by two people, while for racing it needs a crew of eight to twelve depending on wind conditions.

The stamps of Denmark, as well as the issues of 20 other postal administrations at face value may be accessed at the World Online Philatelic Agency, <http://www.wopa-stamps.com/>.

Information also can be found at our Stamp News Now website page, <http://www.stampnewsnow.com/WOPA-NewIssues.html>.